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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/520,269

12/30/2004

Richard Park Andersen

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MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

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PALO ALTO, CA 94304-1018

EXAMINER

ARJOMANDI, NOOSHA

ART UNIT

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2167

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,269	Applicant(s) ANDERSEN, RICHARD PARK	
	Examiner Noosha Arjomandi	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19, & 25-30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>August 30, 2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in respond to the application filed on July 27, 2009, which has claims 9-30 pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9-13 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahman (US 2004 0064704 A1) (hereinafter Rahman) in view of Morris et al. (US 20030063771 A1) (hereinafter Morris).

As to claims 9 and 20, Rahman discloses:

(a) accepting a first user's request [**The server uploads the image into a database from the user, paragraph 27, lines 6-7**];

(b) searching a local or private knowledge object repository, each of the private knowledge objects being associated with a specific user [**If the viewer is required to subscribe to view images, then the viewer subscription is verified prior to display in block, paragraph 53, lines 1-3**];

(c) allowing access if the first user chooses a local or published knowledge object from the list [**An access attribute is set to provide another user a limited ability to view the image, paragraph 22, lines 18-19**]; and

(f) forwarding the first user's request to a second user and prompting the second user for authorization of access if the first user chooses a listed knowledge object from the list, the second user having control of access to the listed knowledge object **[enabling the first user to set an access attribute that indicates a limited ability for a second user to view the first image. The first image may selectively be provided to the second user in a secure form in accordance with the access attribute, see abstract]**.

However Rahman does not explicitly disclose (c) searching a central knowledge object repository and all contributed knowledge objects, each of the contributed knowledge objects being associated with a specific user;(d) returning to the first user a list of links for all matching knowledge objects, said matching knowledge objects being marked either local or published or listed. On the other hand Morris discloses:

(c) searching a central knowledge object repository and all contributed knowledge objects **[Figs. 3-5, searching for resources located throughout the system, paragraph 10]**, each of the contributed knowledge objects being associated with a specific user **[providing users with a way to maintain privacy of their metadata, while allowing searches for images based on that metadata to be performed across all the nodes in the system, paragraph 12]**;(d) returning to the first user a list of links for all matching knowledge objects, said matching knowledge objects being marked either local or published or listed **[Each peer node, which receives the search query, searches its private metadata database for matching resources. For each matching resource, the peer node creates a resource locator, and returns it to the peer server, paragraph 41]**. Therefore it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in

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the art at the time the invention was made to combine the references cited. The motivation for doing so is to be able to search through the database with providing privacy for the identified users.

As to claims 10 and 21, Morris discloses entering a query [**the user constructs the search query by selecting which metadata vocabularies 84 to use in the search, paragraph 36, lines 8-9**].

As to claims 11 and 22-23, Morris discloses wherein the second user has the option to be either anonymous or identifiable [**Users may remain substantially anonymous by having a User ID on the site that is the only identification presented to others who are contacting them or receiving viewing invitations from them, paragraph 66, lines 9-11**].

As to claim 12-13 and 24, Rahman discloses prompting the first user to enter a correct user identification [**The means to identify the recipient may be a user identification specific to the information sharing system (e.g., a user identification established with an account), Paragraph 46**].

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 14-16, 17-19, 25-30 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 14-16, 17-19, 25-30 in the instant application is because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest “returning to the first user the chosen listed knowledge object if the second user allows access; notifying the first user that the request is not completed if the second user declines access to the listed knowledge object; prompting the second user to provide a substitution if the second user determines that the chosen listed knowledge object is irrelevant or sub optimal for the task indicated in the first user's request.”

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noosha Arjomandi whose telephone number is (571)272-9784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 E.S.T (ALT Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 1, 2009

/Noosha Arjomandi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167

/John R. Cottingham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167